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FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN TO THE YEAR 2000

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	3
II.	PRIORITY THEMES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION	4 - 47	3
	A. Equality: vulnerable women, including migrant women	6 - 28	4
	1. Young women	9 - 12	4
	2. Elderly women	13 - 17	5
	3. Disabled women	18 - 20	7
	4. Migrant women	21 - 22	7
	5. Female heads of household	23 - 25	8
	6. General issues	26 - 28	9
	B. Development: national, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations	29 - 38	9

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CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
	C. Peace: refugee and displaced women and children	39 - 47	11
III.	IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/77 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN	48 - 90	13
	A. Monitoring, review and appraisal	48 - 54	13
	B. Contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women	55 - 58	15
	C. Recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of women and their contribution to development, international economic co-operation and the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade	59 - 63	16
	D. World conference on women in 1995	64 - 67	17
	E. Interregional consultation on women in public life	68 - 75	18
	F. Situation of the disabled women	76 - 77	19
	G. 1994 world survey on the role of women in development .	78 - 79	20
	H. Situation of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system	80 - 85	20
	I. Public information programme relating to the advancement of women	86 - 90	24
IV.	IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/76 ON ELDERLY WOMEN	91 - 92	25

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since the endorsement of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 1/ by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985, the Secretary-General has annually presented a report to the Assembly on the implementation of the Strategies. Each year the Assembly has adopted a resolution on the basis of the report and requested the Secretary-General to report to its next session on measures taken to implement the provisions of the resolution. General Assembly resolution 44/77 of 8 December 1989 requested the Secretary-General to report in this way to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

2. Since 1988, the reports of the Secretary-General have contained two basic sections, as requested in their respective enabling resolutions: an assessment of recent developments relevant to the priority themes to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session and a report on actions taken to implement the Nairobi Strategies, with particular reference to specific points raised by the Assembly in its resolution from the previous session, on which a progress reporting is expected. The present report continues this practice. In addition, General Assembly resolution 44/76 of 8 December 1989 on elderly women requested a progress report on the operative paragraphs of that resolution. Since most of the work related to that resolution will take place during 1991 as part of the work on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies, the information on progress contained in the resolution has also been included in the present report, rather than being presented separately.

3. The present report has been prepared in consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system.

II. PRIORITY THEMES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

4. The priority themes to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session in 1991, under the headings of equality, development and peace, deal with two different but related issues. The problems of identifiable subgroups of women are addressed under the headings of equality and peace. Here the focus is on the sex-related problems of women who, because of their special characteristics, experience not only the problems common to all women, but also specific difficulties because of their socio-economic and health condition, age, minority status or a combination of these factors. They include groups identified as "vulnerable" for which obtaining equal opportunity is a means of advancement. They also include refugee and displaced women (and children) who are specifically vulnerable because of war, conflict and natural disaster.

5. The second theme is strengthening of national, regional and international machinery for the advancement of women, including non-governmental organizations. Here, the issue is equipping institutions with the capacity to acquire, analyse and use information about the relationship of women's situation and broader development

policy. One of the functions is to ensure the type of gender-based analysis that can permit Governments to identify and deal with the problems of specific subgroups of women.

A. Equality: vulnerable women, including migrant women

6. The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies 1/ in its section on "Areas of special concern" (see chap. IV) referred to a number of different groups of women. Although those groups are diverse and their problems vary considerably, they have in common the need to remove the multiple obstacles facing them as groups and to place emphasis on addressing the social, economic and human dimensions of their vulnerability and their consequent underprivileged position.

7. Because of the different conditions faced by them, the approach taken has been to look first at each group individually and then to seek to identify policies that will be common to all. The groups of vulnerable women to be considered in the present report include young women, elderly women, disabled women, migrant women and female heads of household.

8. For each group it is recognized that the basis of vulnerability is multi-dimensional and reflects an interrelation among social, economic, psychological, political and cultural factors, as well as sex. It is necessary to identify carefully the specific factors leading to vulnerability in each case, with a view to identifying coherent policies to recommend. For each group, an effort was made to use an existing expert meeting to explore the issues. In addition, the group focus will be an important aspect of preparing the priority theme under the rubric of development for the 1992 session of the Commission on the Status of Women entitled "Integration of women in development". Thus, the expert groups and seminars will have explored both elimination of obstacles, as an input to the 1991 priority themes, and the positive contribution members of each group can make, as an input to 1992.

1. Young women

9. Issues regarding young women were discussed at a seminar on the integration of young people into society, held in June 1990 at Toledo, Spain, as part of the activities of the United Nations Social Development Division in the field of youth. While youth does not inherently lead to vulnerability, the situation of young women is different from that of young men in fundamental ways that can lead to vulnerability. Indeed, for girls many of the problems of discrimination that begin at birth can continue through youth.

10. Persisting gender-based socialization processes tend to assign women the role of mother and housewife, while discouraging activity outside the home and thereby defining women a subordinate status. Preference in access to education and training is often given to males. Although there has been progress in recent years in the female enrolment in first- and second-level education, the world-wide ratio of girls to boys has barely increased from 80.4 girls in 1970 to 81.6 girls to

100 boys in 1984. 2/ For example, 35 per cent of girls in developing countries have no access even to primary education against 22 per cent of boys. Secondary school enrolment rates are also lower: 63 per cent of girls against 52 per cent of boys are out of schools. 3/ But even if they have access to education or training, girls are usually oriented towards occupations that are traditionally female, a circumstance that favours the continuance of traditional segregation in the labour market.

11. Moreover, young women often have a vulnerable position in the labour market. They are concentrated in low-skilled, lower paid, less prestigious occupations, work under unfavourable conditions, are more often ready to accept illegal work or undertake undeclared work inside or outside the house, which is not counted in national statistics. Unemployment strikes women more than men. For example, in 1989 the percentage of unemployed young women in nine European Economic Community (EEC) countries has been higher than the relevant figures for young men, reaching as high as 64.4 per cent in Portugal and 67.4 per cent in Belgium. 4/ Fewer opportunities in terms of education and employment also affect young women's participation at all levels of decision-making.

12. Girls may be encouraged to early marriage and motherhood. For example, 25 per cent of girls in Africa, Asia and Oceania are married at the age of 16 and teenage pregnancies are common. 5/ In that sense, the role of sex education is important. Moreover, in some countries, for economic survival, young women may fall into prostitution.

2. Elderly women

13. The vulnerable situation of young women carries over to elderly women in that persisting lower levels of education and training, limited numbers of occupations, lower level of remuneration and consequently lower levels of pension, if these exist, particularly expose elderly women to poverty. Social isolation, neglect and ill-health (including a significant degree of disability) are factors which very often characterize the status of elderly women. At the same time, elderly women, whose numbers are increasing, both absolutely and as a percentage of the population, constitute valuable human resources that are currently under-utilized for development.

14. Women in many countries have a longer life expectancy and constitute well over half of the elderly population of the world. If, in 1980, women aged 60 and over outnumbered men in the same age group by 45.5 million, they are projected to outnumber their male counterparts by 74 million by the year 2025. As can be seen from table 1, women outnumber men in both developed and developing countries, but especially in the former. Longer life-expectancy for women can be explained by several reasons, including the greater biological resistance of women. At the same time, such factors as alcohol and tobacco abuse, occupational injuries and stress-related disease also contribute to shorter life expectancy of men. It should be noted, however, that when women have a lower status than men, have high fertility and lack basic medical attention, women do not outlive men on the whole.

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Table 1. Sex ratio a/ in the less developed and more developed regions, 1975 and 2025

Age group	1975		2025	
	Developing regions	Developed regions	Developing regions	Developed regions
60-69	96	74	94	78
70-79	88	62	86	75
80+	78	48	73	53

Source: Based on estimates and projections of population by sex and age, 1950-2025, prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations.

a/ Number of men per 100 women of the same age group.

15. The two basic sources of vulnerability among elderly women are economic insecurity and health. With regard to economic security, social security schemes, where they exist, still tend to favour men. Female survivors, especially, tend to receive inadequate benefits. Social security schemes seldom provide coverage to persons working in informal sectors, including agriculture, small trade and domestic work, where women are heavily represented. The process of family disintegration, shorter male life expectancy coupled with age differentials at marriage often combine to leave many older women with little economic support. When health problems related to age begin to appear, older women's relative disadvantage is compounded. While men tend to be cared for by their spouses, women - who usually outlive their spouses - must depend on younger relatives, on friends or on the community. Thus, community-based health and social services for elderly and disabled women are often given high priority in formulating the relevant policy as these factors contribute to the advancement of their status. Some of these dimensions will be explored in an interregional conference on population aging to take place in Japan in October 1990 under the sponsorship of the United Nations Population Division.

16. Further analysis of the role of elderly women in development will be undertaken at a special expert group meeting to be organized in 1991 in relation to the preparation of the priority theme on integration into development, as requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/38 of 24 May 1989 and General Assembly resolution 44/76.

17. In light of the heightened data requirements on elderly women as well as men and for the study of population aging, the United Nations Statistical Office has begun work on the collection of comprehensive statistics on aging and plans to publish in 1992 a special issue of the Demographic Yearbook on aging and a statistical chart on aging to highlight major findings. As part of preparations for these publications, a questionnaire on aging has been sent to national

statistical offices along with the regular questionnaires for the Demographic Yearbook. This questionnaire requests data from each country on age distribution, household size and living arrangements and disability, with special reference to the problems and needs of elderly women and men. Each of these tabulations is requested by age and sex. In addition to disseminating data in the Demographic Yearboook 1990, plans are under way for data dissemination on computer tapes and diskettes.

3. Disabled women

18. Disabled persons of both sexes confront discrimination. However, disabled women are doubly disadvantaged in terms of education, employment, rehabilitation and public income support. Furthermore, disabled women have fewer chances of getting married and setting up their own family as compared with disabled men.

19. The issue was considered at a seminar organized jointly by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and Disabled Peoples' International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, at Vienna from 20 to 24 August 1990, with substantive support from the Social Development Division and financial support from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The participants were largely disabled women from non-governmental organizations dealing with disability issues, as well as United Nations system organizations concerned with the issues, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The seminar discussed the factors related to disability in women and the extent to which there are gender-differences among disabled. It focused on problems related to the provision of public services to disabled women in terms of health, social security, education, vocational training and rehabilitation and employment. The emphasis here was design of services to meet the particular needs of disabled women, even beyond those of disabled persons generally. The importance of providing disabled women with equal access to those and other services was stressed.

20. The seminar also dealt with social factors concerning the acceptance of disability in women and how they could be modified to permit autonomy and independent living, as well as marriage and family life. Here the emphasis was on elimination of stereotypes about disabled women and providing the necessary structure in which disabled women could attain autonomy and self-realization.

4. Migrant women

21. The issues concerning the vulnerability of migrant women were discussed at the Interregional Expert Group on Migrant Women, organized by the United Nations Population Division at San Miniato, Italy, in March 1990. Female migration, including both independently migrating women and those who move to follow their family, has been gradually increasing in all parts of the world. Unfortunately, there are no generally comparable statistics on female migration, because migration statistics, like many others, are not reported by sex. Percentage of foreign-born

inhabitants of a country is a good proxy measure, as foreign birth is usually a sign of previous migration. Several studies in Western Europe indicate that the proportion of female migrants is growing. There was a sharply upward trend in almost all countries, from an average of 30 per cent in the 1960s to 45 per cent in the 1980s. Projections suggest that women will constitute the largest part of the foreign-born population in the medium and in the long run. 6/ Women migrants face discrimination both as women and as migrants in legal, socio-economic and political terms, particularly if they migrate to countries where legal provisions for equality between men and women do not exist or there is a strong traditional perception of women's role in society.

22. At the same time, when women move to countries where their status is higher than in their home countries, migration is a step towards individual improvement. Women can develop a different self-concept and strive for personal aspirations linked to economic independence. For migrant couples, this might entail changes in family relationships and lead to conflicts and frustrations. The task is to adjust both men and women to the new norms and standards, assure that they are aware of and exercise these rights. Programmes to ease adjustment by providing language training as well as other orientation are ways of eliminating many problems.

5. Female heads of household

23. The number of female-headed households is increasing all over the world. Factors contributing to this increase are the growing participation of women in the labour force, which allows them the possibility of economic independence, increasing out-migration of men in search for work and a higher level of marital dissolution, as well as a growth in female-headed households among women who have survived their spouses. The basis for female-headship has shown a tendency to change from predominantly widowed to divorced and never married. The percentage of the total households headed by women varies by countries from a global average of around 20 per cent to 30 per cent to as high as 40-50 per cent. Female-headed households in both developing countries and developed countries alike are more likely to be poor than male-headed households, especially where social support systems are weak. Indeed, female-headed households are beginning to form the core of what has been termed the "feminization of poverty".

24. The relatively higher incidence of poverty in female-headed households stems from the fact that female-headed households typically have one potential wage-earner who in addition must also bear the full burden of child- and dependant-care. The effort to balance the two roles, in a context where women's access to the labour market is inferior to men and where they typically must take lower-paying jobs, means that it is difficult to perform either effectively. Similarly, their lack of access to technical and economic services, as well as other factors of production, can prevent them from earning acceptable incomes from agriculture or self-employment. For many women, the choice is between work and caring for dependants; this is often accompanied by psychological or social problems. The extent to which this occurs depends on the effectiveness of support systems, whether provided from within the family or by the community or the State. It is often thought that problems are different between developed and developing

countries where extended families are assumed to provide a social support to female heads of household, but this assumption remains to be proved.

25. The specific problems of female heads of household in both developed and developing countries will be examined as part of a final expert group on vulnerable women, to take place at Vienna from 26 to 30 November 1990.

6. General issues

26. It should be noted that vulnerability has a cumulative character, where characteristics are frequently interrelated and overlapping. To be old or young, disabled or the head of household and female has a multiplier effect as it often implies poverty, social neglect and isolation. Some of the problems of vulnerability can be seen in terms of comprehensive social policy rather than in terms of group-specific policies. Failure to do so might result in unnecessary competition among different groups for scarce public resources.

27. The disadvantages arising from vulnerability can prevent women from active participation in development. Awareness of the specific gender-bases for the problem is a first step towards formulating strategies, policies and programmes to promote the full integration of all vulnerable women into development.

28. The expert group on vulnerable women at Vienna in November 1990 will examine the common factors that underlie vulnerability and the types of action, public or private, that could help mitigate the effects of those factors. The meeting will examine the results of group-specific discussion and seek to draw general conclusions. The results, together with group-specific recommendations, will form the basis of the report to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session.

B. Development: national, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations

29. Strengthening national machinery was an issue considered by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1988 under the rubric of equality, where the emphasis was placed on the consideration of the role and structure of national machinery. The thirty-fifth session in 1991 will consider the development aspects of this issue, emphasizing the means by which national machinery can be strengthened with the support of regional and international institutions. Attention will be given to the role of non-governmental organizations at all levels in the process.

30. During the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, more than 50 per cent of the present national machinery was established. That has been considered one of the factors that contributed to the effectiveness of the Decade. The specific structure varies according to the economic, social, political and cultural context of each country, but the necessity of having one has been clearly recognized. In 1989, the Directory of National Machinery published by the

Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Office at Vienna included information about national machineries in 91 countries and additional data was annexed on 37 countries, for a total of 128 countries. This compared with only 71 countries included in the 1988 edition of the Directory. An update of the Directory is currently under way.

31. The basis for the consideration of the role, objectives and major functions of national machinery in 1988 derived from the Seminar on National Machinery for Monitoring and Improving the Status of Women, which took place at Vienna in September and October 1987, and a technical seminar on information systems for national machinery also held at Vienna in January 1988. The latter seminar, in particular, stressed the importance of information systems development for the effectiveness of national machinery, including development and use at national level of comprehensive statistical indicators on the status of women. The usefulness of national machineries exchanging information between themselves, bilaterally or multilaterally, on issues of mutual concern, including information on policies and measures, was also emphasized.

32. The main function of national machinery is catalytic: to promote advancement of women by assuring that women's concerns are incorporated in all relevant national policies and programmes. By a combination of advocacy and careful technical analysis, national efforts for development can be prevented from having negative effects on women and actively promote women's advancement.

33. Many models of national machinery exist. In some countries, a women's unit (often at ministerial level) is established in the prime minister's or president's office. In others, a line ministry (usually social affairs) may contain a women's division. In some, it is a full-fledged ministry or an ombudsmen's office. A common practice in some countries is to designate a non-governmental organization as the national machinery. Whatever the form they take, successful national machinery have two characteristics: they are able to mobilize information and they have a direct channel to decision-makers. In short, they are visible at the political level and have a formal and informal network in the public and private sectors, as well as close co-operation with non-governmental organizations and grass-roots women's movements.

34. Starting from the consensus on the role and function of national machinery, reflected in Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/30 of 26 May 1988, as well as in recommendations XXIII and XXIV, contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, the focus of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session will be oriented to increasing the role of national machinery in the advancement of women as an instrument of development and to the identification of regional and international mechanisms to provide assistance to national machinery.

35. Efficient functioning of national machinery requires the support of the Government in terms of resources and publicity for its work. As a result of technical co-operation activities, as well as other information, it is clear that most national machinery lack one or both of these. The typical national machinery lacks sufficient human and technical resources to provide the information base from

which political visibility and the ability to mobilize support must come. They are small, lack equipment and trained staff and have often diverse goals.

36. Public resources are always limited and if national machinery are to function, it is necessary first to analyse the resources available as against the resources needed in terms of finance, professional skills, information management, planning and budgeting and define the set of priorities within the context of a final goal. Special emphasis should be placed on establishing the comprehensive information base that allows the social monitoring of the situation of women to perform and consequently achieve real practical results.

37. Since integration of women in the development process is a global objective, its achievement depends heavily on joint international efforts. Experience of different countries, as well as regional and international ones, can contribute a lot to the efficient functioning of national machinery in a given country. The issue is how to mobilize this international support in a practical, co-ordinated and cost-effective way. A first step is to analyse existing international policies, procedures and methods of assistance to national machinery and co-ordinate them with national efforts.

38. Based on a joint activity between the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Division for the Advancement of Women, an effort is being made to diagnose the assistance needs of national machinery in all regions and, through informal consultations, identify co-ordinated approaches among development co-operation organizations, both bilateral and multilateral. The results of a series of technical seminars concerned with national machinery in the context of specific issues, meetings of groups of national machinery at both regional and global levels, diagnostic efforts by individual countries and advisory missions will provide the factual basis for the preparations of the themes.

C. Peace: refugee and displaced women and children

39. The situation of refugee and displaced persons continues to be dramatic. According to currently available estimates, the world refugee population is approximately 14 to 15 million persons and the number of displaced persons may even be larger. Most are women and children. Their situation can be particularly difficult as they are not only confronted with the trauma of uprooting often related to armed conflict but they are also deprived of normal family and community ties, and also they are forced to assume an abrupt change in socio-economic roles and status. It was only recently, during the United Nations Decade for Women, that it has been realized that refugee and displaced women and children merit special attention.

40. The Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has adopted various resolutions calling for increased attention to the specific resources and needs of refugee women. In particular, they have focused on the vulnerability of refugee women and children in areas of security, particularly related to sexual and physical abuse and exploitation. As well, they emphasized the resources and experience represented by refugee women and

the need to promote their participation in the planning and implementation of protection and assistance programmes, in order to ensure their equitable access to the benefits of such activities.

41. To analyse those issues, an expert group meeting was convened in July 1990 by the Division for the Advancement of Women, with the co-operation of UNHCR and financial support of UNIFEM. The needs of refugees and displaced women and children were discussed under four major categories: protection issues, assistance issues, durable solutions and participation in decision-making. Because displaced women and children have a different legal status than refugees, they were dealt with separately.

42. The meeting recognized that the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of refugee women must be respected. It entails ensuring compliance not only with the provisions of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, but also with those of the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their two additional Protocols of 1977 and the International Covenants on Human Rights of 1966. In addition to sharing the basic needs of all other refugees, refugee women and children have particular protection needs in relation to the determination of their status, protection from sexual and physical abuse and exploitation, as well as protection from discrimination. These instruments are gender-neutral, but in their application women may find it difficult to obtain the same refugee status as men, usually only on the basis of the principle of family unity under which granting of refugee status to the man in a family leads to the spouse and children being given that status. Discrimination based on sex has not usually been considered as accepted reason for obtaining refugee status. The absence of trained and sympathetic interviewers, especially women, has been found to be reasons why women are reticent to recount experiences that might justify their qualifying for refugee status.

43. In addition to the basic needs shared with all other refugees, women and children have special protection needs that reflect their gender and age: they need protection against sexual and physical abuse and exploitation and protection against sexual discrimination. With regard to material assistance, there is a need to ensure that women have the same access to supplies as men.

44. There is increasing recognition that the relief-focused activities appropriate to the emergency phase of refugee situations must be supplemented by the development-oriented approaches in long-term refugee situations in order to promote self-reliance. Refugee women should be considered agents for development rather than as merely passive beneficiaries of programmes. Assistance in various spheres should be examined in a development context that in conformity with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies that asserts that all women regardless of condition should be enabled to exercise their full potential for individual growth and contribution to society. Special attention should be given for development and diversification of education and training and economic opportunities aimed towards the appropriate durable solution.

45. Durable solutions are the major focus of refugee programmes. Whether the solution is a voluntary return to one's country of origin, settlement in a country of first asylum or resettlement in a third country, there should be an effort to involve women in the choice and to make appropriate provisions to ease their transition. This could include rebuilding of homes and infrastructure in the country of origin, provision of training and materials or development of programmes to accelerate adjustment.

46. The crucial task is to integrate refugee women as full and active partners in the process of assessing needs, planning programmes, defining the proper durable solution and implementing them. Participation of women in the management of their own lives, whether it is in camps or other refugee centres, make programmes more effective and has a lasting effect on the women themselves.

47. While the international community has expressly recognized the need for providing international protection, assistance and seeking durable solutions to the problems of refugees, including women and children, and designated international agencies for carrying out these tasks, the same recognition and designation has occurred with respect to the plight of displaced persons. Since most of the problems faced by refugee women and children are common to those of displaced women and children, it is necessary that the international community address this issue as a matter of urgency. Without adequate attention, it is unlikely that displaced women and children will receive the protection and assistance they need and deserve.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/77 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

A. Monitoring, review and appraisal

48. The Commission on the Status of Women undertook the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000, as well as the biennial monitoring, at its thirty-fourth session. As required under the comprehensive reporting system for monitoring and review and appraisal, the review was based on a report by the Secretary-General that drew on national reports, material provided by non-governmental organizations, input from the organizations of the United Nations system, international statistics and the results of consideration of priority themes by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/1990/5). The report provided a picture of changes since the Nairobi Conference. Based on the report, the Commission identified obstacles to the implementation of the Strategies and made recommendations for immediate action to overcome them. The Commission also specified the priority themes that it will consider during the period 1993-1996. The conclusions and recommendations were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1990/15.

49. The Commission concluded that, although some progress continued to be made, a combination of economic and political factors had slowed the rate of progress

sufficiently to place the achievement of the objectives agreed upon at Nairobi at risk. Steps would have to be taken in key areas to remove immediate obstacles and thereby accelerate improvements.

50. Emphasis was placed on the role of education in reducing stereotyping of women's roles in society and in providing women with the skills necessary for economic and political participation. In this respect, the relevant steps should be taken to ensure access to education and improve its quality, including reforming formal and informal educational systems at all levels, and to promote change in psychological, social and traditional practices that are the foundation of the de facto obstacles to women's progress. Special efforts should be made to remove all gender-related differences in adult literacy by the year 2000. If possible, by 1995 the Governments should complete the revision of textbooks according to national laws and practice in order to eliminate sex-biased presentations. Consequently, efforts should be continued to ensure equal educational and training opportunities at all levels. Encouragement should be given to promoting women's access to scientific and technological subjects.

51. A second area of action is to promote women's equal participation in the economy, which is still characterized by job segregation, unequal training, unequal pay for the work of equal value, inadequate career prospects and lack of full participation in decision-making. The effort should be renewed to close the gap between women's and men's pay, possibly by 1995, and special measures should be taken to address the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, including measurement of the economic value of women's unpaid work. For this, the United Nations system should complete work on methodological aspects of measuring pay inequities between men and women, unpaid work and work in the informal sector and should publish studies of countries where such measurements have been made.

52. The significant underrepresentation of women in economic and political decision-making needs to be addressed since it constitutes a major obstacle to progress. Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 stipulates that Governments, political parties, trade unions and professional and other representative groups should each aim at targets to increase the proportion of women in leadership positions to at least 30 per cent by 1995 with a view to achieving equal representation between women and men by the year 2000 and should institute recruitment and training programmes to prepare women for those positions. The United Nations Secretariat, in co-operation with other institutions and Governments, should further develop and disseminate an accessible data base on the composition of the highest decision-making bodies at the national, regional and international levels, disaggregated by sex, and should assist national Governments to set up such data bases.

53. While the Commission did not recommend changing the comprehensive reporting system, it did suggest that the reporting process for the next review and appraisal should be simplified and be based more on information gathered at the international level, including improved statistics. This was reflected in Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/14 of 24 May 1990. Further, by its resolution 1990/9 of 24 May 1990, the Council recommended that the United Nations make a special effort to publicize the results of the first review and appraisal.

54. Finally, considering the importance of the issue of environment for women, and in order to contribute to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Economic and Social Council, by its decision 1990/213 of 24 May 1990, added the question of women and the environment to the priority themes to be dealt with by the Commission in 1992 under the rubric of development.

B. Contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women

55. Paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 44/77 reaffirmed the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in matters related to the advancement of women, and urged all organizations of the United Nations system to co-operate effectively with the Commission in the task of promoting the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies to the year 2000; and paragraph 9 requested the relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide action-oriented input when reporting to the Commission on the priority themes.

56. The preparations for the work of the Commission have involved considerable input from the organizations of the United Nations system. A system of focal points exists that consists of a network of responsible officials in 32 units of the United Nations Secretariat, seven United Nations programmes, 17 specialized agencies and 10 United Nations research institutes or inter-agency bodies. Organizations provide text and comment on documents to be presented to the Commission, both through annual inter-agency meetings held immediately following the Commission and through the circulation of drafts. The review and appraisal, the monitoring report and the priority theme reports presented to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session all had involved that input. At the Commission meeting itself, 16 organizations were present and contributed to the discussions, both through formal statements and through participation in informal consultations.

57. The 14th Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women, held at Vienna on 12 and 13 March 1990, discussed the ways to ensure efficient response by the organizations of the United Nations system, both to the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, in general, and the preparation of priority themes for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, in particular. It was agreed that, in order to facilitate and make more visible the input of organizations of the United Nations system, both agency statements and copies of the most relevant resolutions and summary of the programme of work of the respective agency should be available during the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. In order to assist in the preparation of the reports on the priority themes, agencies should provide the additional documents at the earliest opportunity. To enhance co-ordination and to improve interaction of the United Nations bodies and agencies, periodic consolidated lists of meetings related to the advancement of women are prepared and issued and a list of future meetings related to the preparation of the priority themes through the year 1995 has been prepared.

58. Organizations of the United Nations system have been substantively involved in the preparation of priority themes for the next session of the Commission. For example, the expert group meeting on refugee and displaced women and children, held

at Vienna from 2 to 6 July 1990, was organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women in co-operation with UNHCR and with financial and substantive support from UNIFEM. It was also attended by substantive specialists from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNRWA, ILO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations regional commissions. Similarly, the meeting on disabled women in August 1990 was assisted by specialists from ILO, WHO and UNRWA. The expert group meeting on women and HIV/AIDS and the role of national machinery for the advancement of women to be held at Vienna from 24 to 30 September 1990 is being organized with the assistance of WHO. As noted earlier, the preparation of other priority themes involves similar co-operation.

C. Recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of women and their contribution to development, international economic co-operation and the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

59. Resolution 44/77, paragraph 7, requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider during its thirty-fourth session in 1990 the role of women in and their contribution to development, international economic co-operation and the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. The Commission considered those issues and made recommendations, which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1990/10 and 1990/15 of 24 May 1990.

60. In the recommendations, the critical role that women, comprising half of available human resources, play in the development process was stressed and also that, without the advancement of women, development will be difficult to achieve. However, for the majority of women, economic and social development have not resulted in the expected benefits. Indeed, the increase of feminization of poverty reflects the underlying structural problems faced by women in the midst of economic changes.

61. Bearing that in mind, it was recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade should identify strategies for ensuring that women's needs and contribution to the development process are reflected in all aspects of the international development strategy, including human resource development and economic growth. Measures should be considered to ensure the full and effective participation of women in development, taking into account Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/105, paragraph 11, 1990/10 and 1990/15, annex, section B.

62. Member States were also urged to give special attention in their contributions to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to the role of women in development, and to consult with national machineries and non-governmental organizations concerned with those issues.

63. The Economic and Social Council also decided, by its resolution 1990/10, that the Commission should monitor the implementation of the international development strategy as it pertains to women and development in the context of its review of the implementation of the Nairobi Strategies.

D. World conference on women in 1995

64. In paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 44/77, the Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its session in 1990 the question of holding, in 1995, a world conference on women, at the lowest possible cost, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The Commission recommended holding such a conference in 1995 and this was embodied in Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990. That resolution recommended that (a) a world conference on women should be held in 1995, (b) the Commission, as the preparatory body for the conference, should include preparations in its regular programme of work during 1991-1995 under the item on monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Strategies, (c) requested the Secretary-General to include the relevant costs of preparing and convening the conference in the programme budget of the Organization for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 within the respective budgetary limits, and (d) further requested the Secretary-General to make proposals on the preparation and convening of the conference for submission to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session.

65. In the statement of programme budget implications presented to the Council (E/1990/25/Add.1), the Secretary-General estimated the probable cost of the conference at $2 million, of which over half consisted of conference-servicing costs that were expected to be absorbed within the normal conference servicing resources. He also noted that there would be a need to strengthen the Division for the Advancement of Women temporarily with three Professional and four general service posts to cope with the increased work-load. As a headquarters conference, as is usual in such cases, the conference will take place at the headquarters of its secretariat, which is Vienna.

66. The purpose of the conference would be to conduct the second review and appraisal of the Forward-looking Strategies and to determine those measures necessary to ensure that the Strategies achieve their objectives during the last five years before the end of the century, especially at the national level. The conference would provide Governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system with a focus for preparations of national reviews and appraisals, provide a forum for exchange of experience, set targets and mobilize interest in the issue. The emphasis would be on the preparatory process, especially at the national and regional levels.

67. Based on its programme of work, it is anticipated that the Commission will determine, at its 1991 session, the main themes of the Conference, as well as a programme of preparations. Regional preparatory meetings have already been mandated in three regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean) for 1993 and 1994 and informal consultations have been held among the concerned secretariats on preparations.

E. Interregional consultation on women in public life

68. Paragraph 13 of resolution 44/77 endorsed the convening of a high-level interregional consultation on women in public life. The results, in conformity with resolution 33/2 of 6 April 1989 of the Commission on the Status of Women, as endorsed by Economic and Social Council decision 1989/129 of 24 May 1989 will be made available to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

69. It is suggested that the consultation be entitled "Women in Politics: the Interregional Consultation on Women in Public Life". It is scheduled to take place at the Hofburg Palace at Vienna from 10 to 12 September 1991. As recommended (recommendation VI) by Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 on the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the consultation "should have maximum participation by Governments and non-governmental organizations and should elaborate for the first half of the decade an agenda for political action that will mobilize all women to participate actively in the political process". In that sense, it would be a preparatory activity to the 1995 world conference on women and would also form the basis for the priority theme under the rubric of peace for consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1992.

70. It is proposed that the emphasis should be on the difference women can make in politics. The absence of women in large numbers from decision-making has been amply documented. Indeed, recent results of parliamentary elections in Europe, as reported by the Inter-parliamentary Union, note that despite improvements in a few countries, in most countries where elections have recently been held - mostly in Eastern Europe - the percentage of women elected to parliaments has declined sharply. The overall figures have declined from 19.1 per cent on 1 January 1988 to 13.6 per cent on 30 June 1990.

71. The importance of increasing the participation of women in politics was stressed during the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Strategies. There are almost no formal legal impediments to women exercising this right, meaning that the issue is one of practice rather than law. Politics for women in practice mostly means "getting things done" and "making a difference" at the grass-roots level, rather than engaging in more formal institutional politics or "public life". There is a gap between women's effective activism in the issues of immediate and often local importance to them, and their participation in the broader national and international arenas where the issues of concern to them may be submerged by the interests of an overwhelming majority of men. Moreover, women's perception of global issues is often different from that of men. It is at the subnational and local levels that women's effectiveness and areas of primary interest are demonstrated and from which an agenda of political issues relevant to women, and to the community at large, can be constructed.

72. The purpose of the consultation would be to examine the factors that would encourage women to translate their concern for issues at a local level into an interest in national political participation and to elaborate an agenda of issues that can mobilize women's interest in politics and which could be used as a basis of information campaigns, education and action by women in all political parties

and associations. For these issues, the consultation should show how women decision-makers in large enough numbers would reach different conclusions, set different priorities and suggest newer solutions than would otherwise be the case.

73. The consultation would bring together active political leaders from all over the world, participating in their individual capacity, although nominated and funded by their countries. Ideally, each country would send one or several women who currently hold office in government, political parties, unions or interest association and who are considered to have the potential for high office. Based on a combination of formal meetings and informal caucusing, the consultation, a form of global women's political caucus, would agree on a final agenda of action, which could be presented to the world at large through mass media coverage.

74. The preparations for the consultation have already been included in the programme budget of the United Nations. Preparatory work will be undertaken by an expert group meeting at Vienna from 27 to 31 May 1991. The group will examine how women in different countries and regions are making a difference in politics at the subnational, local and neighbourhood level; identify those issues that have particularly mobilized women's support and interest; identify those factors that have influenced the outcomes of elections and political decisions; and draw preliminary conclusions about the best means of eliciting women's greater participation in politics.

75. The success of the consultation will depend on the level of national participation, the extent to which the preparations and the consultation itself receive attention in national and international mass media, and the degree to which pointed, multi-partisan issues can be identified and agreed upon. Efforts are underway to obtain extrabudgetary resources to assist developing countries to participate and to improve public information coverage.

F. Situation of the disabled women

76. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 44/77, the General Assembly called on the United Nations and Governments to give special attention to the situation of disabled women, so as to ensure the equalization of opportunities for them in the economic, social and political fields.

77. The Commission on the Status of Women, under the priority theme "Equality: vulnerable women, including migrant women" will review the issue of disabled women at its thirty-fifth session in 1991 from the point of view of obstacles and, at its thirty-sixth session in 1992, from the point of view of their integration in development. To ensure full incorporation of disabled women in these themes, as noted above, a seminar on disabled women was organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women at Vienna from 20 to 24 August 1990. The seminar examined the obstacles to full integration of disabled women in development in the context of their double discrimination of being a woman and a disabled person, and focused on practical measures to be taken in this respect.

G. 1994 world survey on the role of women in development

78. By both resolutions 44/77 of 8 December 1989 and 44/171 of 19 December 1989, the Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to continue updating the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, with the next update due to be considered by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1994. A number of preliminary drafts and progress reports have been requested for earlier sessions of those bodies, as well as of the Commission on the Status of Women.

79. Based on the guidance provided, the organizations of the United Nations system have begun planning the 1994 survey. The possible structure and approach were discussed during the 14th Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women in March 1990. A revised proposal is being prepared for the fifteenth inter-agency meeting in March 1991, with a view to ensuring that preparations for the survey are reflected in the work programmes of the co-operating organizations. The first progress report is scheduled to be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in 1992.

H. Situation of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system

80. Paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 44/77 once again called upon the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to establish five-year targets at each level for the percentage of women in Professional and decision-making positions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in order that a definite upward trend in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/206 D of 11 December 1986 might be registered in the number of Professional and decision-making positions held by women by 1990, and to set additional targets every five years. For the United Nations Secretariat, Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/3 of 24 May 1990 has requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to increase the number of women employed throughout the United Nations system in posts subject to geographical distribution, and to make a special effort to increase the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, in order to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent of the total by 1995, without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution of posts.

81. The situation of women Professional staff, as a percentage of all Professional staff at Headquarters and other established posts as at 31 December 1989, is shown in figure 1. The 1989 figures represent an increase over previous years at all levels, as can be seen from table 2. While the percentage of women in regular Professional appointments (first and second officer level) is near the target level of 30 per cent and equality is being approached at the entry-level, the proportion of women at senior and middle management levels continues to be low, especially in the specialized agencies.

82. Since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/44/511), which indicated that quantitative targets had been set by the United Nations Secretariat, WHO, the

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNICEF and the World Bank, additional steps have been reported by the United Nations Secretariat and by UNIDO.

83. In the United Nations Secretariat, special efforts are being taken during 1990 to hasten progress towards attaining the 30 per cent target for women in posts subject to geographical distribution by the end of 1990 and improving their representation at higher levels in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/185 C of 19 December 1989. Among these were the earmarking by departments of at least 50 per cent of vacancies for women; limiting the submission of candidates to women where qualified women candidates for recruitment have been identified; urging managers to propose women candidates for recruitment and placement in higher level posts; seeking women candidates from among former junior Professional officers, associate officers and other project personnel; treating women currently in technical co-operation posts as internal candidates; and establishing a network of focal points in every department and office to work with the focal point for women in the Office of Human Resources Management, as well as in the permanent missions of Member States to the United Nations where possible.

84. UNIDO's policy-making organs at each of its sessions passed resolutions calling for measures to be taken to improve the status of women in the UNIDO secretariat, including the setting of five-year targets for each level for the percentage of women in Professional and decision-making positions and to take the necessary action to ensure that an upward trend be registered in the number of these positions being held by women by 1990. In November 1988 the Director of Personnel Services Division was designated Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the secretariat and, in January 1989, a comprehensive plan of action was introduced, covering such aspects as recruitment and placement promotions, attitudes and other measures to improve the working conditions of women staff. In order to establish targets and monitor their implementation, internal working groups have been created in each department that are co-operating closely with the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the secretariat.

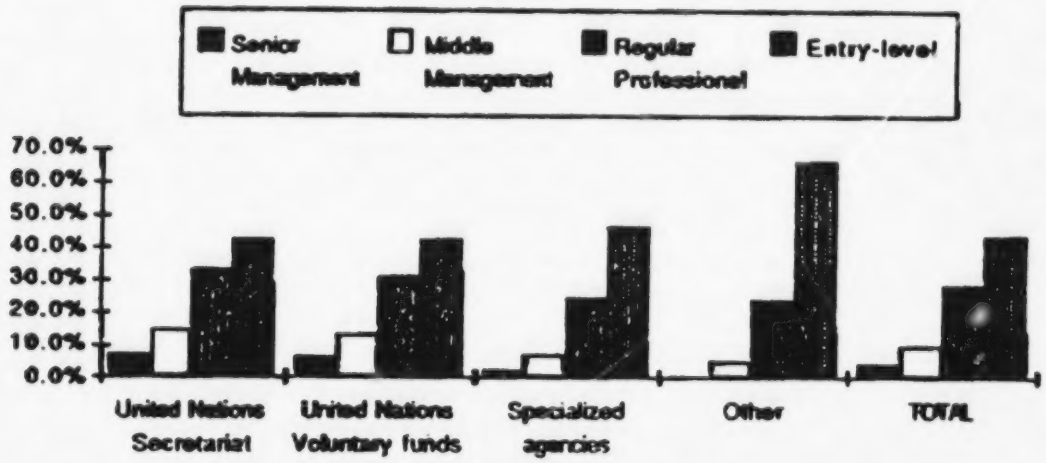
85. Among the efforts undertaken to improve the status of women were special recruitment missions that resulted in an increase in applications from women during 1989 of over 150 per cent. Nevertheless, the low number of women on the UNIDO roster remains one of the obstacles to increasing the number of women in the secretariat. The representation of women in posts subject to geographical distribution increased from 16.7 per cent at the end of 1988 to 17.8 per cent by 1989 and at the end of July 1990 has reached 19.2 per cent. (Women in all Professional posts accounted for 18.4 per cent at the end of 1988, 18.3 per cent by 1989 and in July 1990 for 20.4 per cent.) Although the representation of women at the senior and middle management levels is still low with 6.8 per cent in July 1990, it has increased considerably from 1988 when women accounted only 3.5 per cent in those levels. Although there were no women among the five deputy directors-general, one of the six directors is a woman. Further, while 10 years ago only 18 per cent of the women were to be found in the grades P-4 and above, 40 per cent of the women Professionals were in these grades by 1988 and 46 per cent at the end of 1989.

Table 2. Per cent of women at different Professsional levels in the United Nations system, 1987-1989

	Senior management (Director and above)			Middle management (Senior and principal officers)			Regular Professional (First and second officers)			Entry-level (Associate and assistant officers)		
	1987	1988	1989	1987	1988	1989	1987	1988	1989	1987	1988	1989
	(Percentages)			(Percentages)			(Percentages)			(Percentages)		
United Nations Secretariat	5.1	4.5	7.1	10.9	10.3	14.3	29.4	30.2	33.5	35.8	37.5	42.4
United Nations voluntary funds	3.5	6.5	6.6	11.7	12.9	13.3	27.3	28.6	31.0	40.7	40.1	42.6
Specialized agencies	2.3	2.6	2.6	4.1	4.6	6.7	18.9	20.1	24.3	36.6	35.9	46.6
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.9	5.1	19.8	18.9	24.0	68.4	56.5	66.7
Total	3.4	3.9	4.6	6.6	7.0	9.5	23.4	24.5	28.5	38.1	37.9	44.0

Source: Consultative Committee for Administrative Questions (Personnel Matters), reports from 1987, 1988 and 1989.

Figure 1. Per cent of female professional staff by level, 1989



Source: Consultative Committee for Administrative Questions (Personnel Matters).

I. Public information programme relating to the advancement of women

86. Paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 44/77 requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide for the existing weekly radio programmes on women in the regular budget of the United Nations, with adequate provisions for broadcasts in different languages; it also requested him to develop the focal point for issues relating to women in the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, which, in concert with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, should provide a more effective public information programme relating to the advancement of women.

87. Production of the special radio feature/documentary programme "Women" continues on a weekly basis in English. The Department has also resumed production in Arabic, French and Spanish on a monthly basis. Among the major themes and issues of the series are "Rural Women's Role in the Economy", "United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", "Elderly Women", "Women in Political Life", "Women in Promotion of Peace", "Debate on Women's Status", "United Nations Women's Institute in the Dominican Republic", "UNIFEM", "Income-Generating Women in Kenya" and "Women Confront AIDS".

88. The focal point post for women's issues was filled and with the active participation of the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information of the Secretariat, initiatives have been undertaken to establish an Inter-Agency Advisory Group on Information Activities, which would allow all United Nations system bodies based either in or represented in New York to exchange information on their activties, with a view to collaboration wherever it is feasible and effective. It has been proposed that those regular meetings should produce a quarterly public-oriented calendar of United Nations women's events. Furthermore, programmes on women have been prepared by the regional units in the following languages: English, French, Dutch, French Creole, Spanish, Bangla, Portuguese, Kiswahili, Hindi, Turkish and Indonesian.

89. Efforts to develop a more effective information programme aimed at the public have also resulted in a series of United Nations Focus Features on issues relating specifically to poverty, domestic violence against women, and literacy as a tool for empowering women. Contacts have been established with the media, especially with decision-makers of major English-language women's magazines, as well as with leading New York area educational institutions and with NGOs.

90. In response to ECOSOC resolution 1990/14, the Department of Public Information is preparing a booklet which will increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, particularly in relation to education and to economic and political participation and decision making.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/76 ON ELDERLY WOMEN

91. General Assembly resolution 44/76 reaffirmed Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/38, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to organize a seminar to study questions arising from an in-depth analysis of the situation of women as they age, and to transmit the results of the study to the Commission on the Status of Women, under the priority theme of development, at its 1992 session, which will also mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging. General Assembly resolution 44/76 also invited the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Statistical Office of the Secretariat of the United Nations to pay specific attention to older women in their efforts to improve methodology for data-gathering on women.

92. The requested seminar on the integration of aging women in development has been programmed to take place in October 1991. It will be organized with the co-operation of all relevant organizations of the United Nations system and will include participation by major international non-governmental organizations concerned with aging, both in planning and execution. Background documentation for the seminar will include an in-depth analysis of the situation of women as they age. The seminar is intended to contribute to the preparations for the priority theme to be considered by the Commission at its session in 1992 and will seek to encourage organizations of the United Nations system to pay particular attention to the role of aging women in development activities as requested by General Assembly resolution 44/76.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, data highlights, No. 7, May 1989.

3/ United Nations Population Fund, Investing in Women: The focus of the 1990s, New York, United Nations Population Fund, 1990.

4/ United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, data highlights, No. 4, January 1989.

5/ United Nations, Fertility Behaviour on the Context of Development: Evidence from the World Fertility Survey (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XIII.5), p. 34.

6/ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: "The situation of women migrants", (OECD publications, Paris 1985), The Integration of Women into the Economy, chap. IV.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Item 32 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 11 September 1990 from the Permanent Representatives of France and Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As Co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, we have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement, issued at Jakarta on 10 September 1990, of the Informal Meeting on Cambodia, which was recently held from 9 to 10 September 1990 (see annex).

We would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pierre Louis BLANC
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations

(Signed) Nana S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Indonesia
to the United Nations

* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Joint statement of the Informal Meeting on Cambodia, issued at Jakarta on 10 September 1990

In the exercise of the mandate conferred upon them by the International Conference on Cambodia held in Paris from 30 July to 30 August 1989, the two Co-Chairmen convened an Informal Meeting of the Cambodian parties at Jakarta on 9 and 10 September 1990. The objective of the Meeting was to ascertain the views of the Cambodian parties on their support and acceptance of the framework of a comprehensive settlement as agreed upon by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in New York on 28 August 1990, as well as to finalize the formation of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The Cambodian parties accepted the framework document formulated by the five permanent members of the Security Council in its entirety as the basis for settling the Cambodia conflict, and committed themselves, in full co-operation with all other participants of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC), to elaborating this framework into a comprehensive political settlement through the processes of the PICC.

In this context, the Cambodian parties addressed the question of a Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and agreed on the Nature and Functions of the SNC as stipulated in the P-5 document. They specifically agreed as follows:

(a) The SNC is the unique legitimate body and source of authority in which, throughout the transitional period, the independence, sovereignty and unity of Cambodia is embodied;

(b) The SNC is composed of representative individuals with authority among the Cambodian people and reflecting all shades of opinion among them;

(c) The SNC will represent Cambodia externally and occupy the seat of Cambodia at the United Nations, in the United Nations specialized agencies, and in other international institutions and international conferences;

(d) The SNC at the time of signature of the comprehensive settlement will delegate to the United Nations all powers necessary to ensure the implementation of the comprehensive agreement, including those relating to the conduct of free and fair elections and the relevant aspects of the administration of Cambodia;

(e) All decisions of the SNC will be made by consensus among its members.

Accordingly, the Cambodian parties agreed to form the SNC with the following composition:*

1. H.E. Mr. Chau Sen Coosal
2. H.E. Mr. Chem Snguon
3. H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong
4. H.E. Mr. Hun Sen
5. H.E. Mr. Ieng Mouly
6. H.E. Mr. Khieu Samphan
7. H.E. Mr. Kong Som Ol
8. H.E. Mr. Prince Norodom Ranaridh
9. H.E. Mr. Sin Song
10. H.E. Mr. Son Sann
11. H.E. Mr. Son Sen
12. H.E. Mr. Tea Banh

The Cambodian parties further agreed to accept H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk's proposal, as contained in his statement of 8 September 1990, that if the 12 members of the SNC so desire, they could elect a Chairman for the SNC, who would, in such case, be the "13th member" of the SNC.

The SNC is to hold its first session as soon as possible.

The two Co-Chairmen agreed to consult with all the other participating countries of the PICC with a view to reconvening the PICC at the earliest possible date.

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* By decision of the two Co-Chairmen and for practical reasons, this list is arranged in alphabetical order instead of in order of age seniority, as in the PICC.

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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 79

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honor to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report on patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development, which has been prepared by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in response to General Assembly resolution 44/234 of 22 December 1989.

Annex

Patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development

Report prepared by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

1. The background of the project on patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development is found in General Assembly resolutions 40/179 of 17 December 1985 and 44/234 of 22 December 1989, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/6 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/4 of 22 May 1989, and the reports and and recommendations of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fourth 1/ and twenty-fifth sessions. 2/ In paragraph 2 of its resolution 40/179, the Assembly considered that an accurate assessment of the advances in living standards required a reliable measuring instrument consisting of a set of indicators related to living conditions, employment and the circumstances underlying them. At its twenty-fifth session, the Statistical Commission recommended, inter alia, that countries develop pertinent methods of collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data, that new indicators be devised and that, apart from the use of household surveys, innovative methods of collecting and processing data be explored.

2. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 1987/6, the Council recommended that a report setting forth the views of Governments and containing a small number of case studies or national monographs be prepared by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. In compliance with that request the Institute commissioned four case studies, one each in Côte d'Ivoire, India, Kenya and Morocco. A larger number of such studies would have been desirable, but four were all that could be managed with the funds available. The emphasis was on Africa because of the particular needs of that region for information. The United Nations Statistical Office meanwhile arranged for an enquiry into the views of Governments.

3. A progress report on those activities (E/CN.3/1989/14) was presented to the Statistical Commission in February 1989 at its twenty-fifth session. The United Nations Statistical Office presented initial results of its survey of the views of Governments, and the Institute submitted a summary of the two case studies it had received thus far. The Commission requested that a final report be prepared for its twenty-sixth session, in February 1991. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 44/234, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the Institute to submit a preliminary progress report to it at its forty-fifth session.

4. Also at its twenty-fifth session, the Statistical Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of Morocco to host a meeting of experts to discuss methodological questions and conceptual aspects of the measurement of patterns of consumption and to consolidate research currently under way on the subject.

5. A brief inter-agency meeting was hosted by the Institute in May 1990 at Geneva to prepare for the expert meeting. Nine agencies and offices of the United Nations system were represented at the inter-agency meeting, at which the purpose,

tentative agenda, participation, location, timing and financial implications of the expert meeting were discussed. It was decided that the meeting of experts should take place at Rabat in April 1991. Participants would include selected experts on the methodology of measuring levels of living, representatives of the United Nations offices and specialized agencies working in the field, a small number of policy makers and senior statisticians from developing countries, as well as members of the Statistical Commission wishing to attend.

6. The Institute has meanwhile prepared its final report on the country case studies for discussion by the Statistical Commission in February 1991.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 6 (E/1987/19).

2/ Ibid., 1989, Supplement No. 3 (E/1989/21).

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Forty-fifth session
Item 35 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 11 September 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Missions of Japan and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint press statement issued on 10 September 1990 by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary of the United Kingdom and the Foreign Minister of Japan on the situation in the Gulf region.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thomas L. RICHARDSON
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the United Kingdom

(Signed) Katsumi SEZAKI
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Japan

* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Joint press statement issued on 10 September 1990 by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Japan on the Gulf situation

1. The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary of the United Kingdom, and Mr. Taro Nakayama, Foreign Minister of Japan, discussed the problem of the threat to international peace and security posed by Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. The Ministers agreed that Iraq's actions were contrary to all norms of international behaviour and clearly contravened the Charter of the United Nations, of which Iraq is a Member, as well as established international law.

2. The Ministers called upon Iraq to fully comply with the Security Council resolutions on this subject and demanded Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. They reaffirmed their support for the objectives of the international community - to end Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, to restore the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait under its legitimate Government, and to deter further aggression by Iraq.

3. The Ministers called for the full implementation by the international community of the Security Council's economic sanctions in order to secure Iraq's full compliance with Security Council resolutions. They expressed support for the international efforts to ensure the strict implementation of these economic measures and to deter further Iraqi aggression, and so to restore peace and security in the Gulf region. They considered it essential for the international community to achieve its objectives, however long or difficult that might prove to be, and called on all members of the international community to implement the sanctions fully. They welcomed the contributions already being made towards the international forces deployed to restore peace and stability in the region. They agreed that it was essential for all countries to make the maximum possible contribution to this international effort.

4. The Ministers recognized that many countries in the region were facing urgent and serious economic difficulties in conjunction with the application of economic sanctions in accordance with Security Council resolution 661 (1990). They promised to consider what measures could be taken to help the countries affected by sanctions. They also confirmed the importance of continued international efforts in relation to the grave and growing problem of refugees caused by Iraqi aggression.

5. The Ministers strongly condemned Iraq's mistreatment of foreign nationals in Kuwait and Iraq as contravening international law and humanitarian requirements. They called upon the Iraqi Government to allow the free and rapid departure of all foreign nationals wanting to leave, in accordance with Security Council resolution 664 (1990). The Ministers demanded that Iraq cease to interfere with the functioning of the diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait and restrain from any action contrary to the status and inviolability of their members.

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

Support account for peace-keeping operations

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 44/192 A of 21 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the measures taken in accordance with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in its reports (A/44/725 and A/44/868) and to provide further information covering, inter alia:

(a) Economies of scale;

(b) Start-up problems;

(c) The establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items;

(d) The use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations;

(e) Problems related to overload posts and the proposed establishment of a support account for peace-keeping operations.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to keep under review the format and amount of information that should be included in his reports on the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations in order to assist Member States in the scrutiny and evaluation of those

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

reports. As regards that latter request, the Secretary-General undertakes to provide, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, such information as will permit Member States transparency of the financing of each peace-keeping operation, taking into consideration the request of the Assembly to limit the number of pages of reports submitted to it.

3. The present report is submitted in response to the request for information on problems related to overload posts and the proposed establishment of a support account for peace-keeping operations. The additional information requested will be provided in addenda to the present report.

4. It is recalled that during the course of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General submitted a report, issued subsequently as document A/C.5/44/45, to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations. In that report, the Secretary-General proposed, inter alia, a change in the arrangements that were in place for the provision of overload posts financed from the budgets of the ongoing peace-keeping operations that were financed outside the United Nations programme budget for the biennium. These posts are provided to supplement the provisions under the regular budget for managerial, legal, technical and administrative support and backstopping of good offices and peace-keeping operations. The proposed change excluded the overload posts provided by the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), as this operation was due to end on 31 March 1990 and did not seek additional appropriations for 1990. The proposal indicated, instead, a need to establish a formula that would apportion the costs of the overload posts in a more equitable manner, by including in all future budgets of good offices and peace-keeping operations, financed outside the regular budget, a financial provision calculated on the basis of a fixed percentage rate of the costs of the civilian component, that is, the United Nations staff members serving in the mission area, for salaries, common staff and travel costs. The income generated from the application of the percentage rate would be maintained in a separate account for support of peace-keeping operations against which temporary posts would then be established. At the end of the financial period, any unencumbered balance would remain in the account for the purpose of providing assistance to the offices dealing with peace-keeping matters during periods of peak work-load, such as when new peace-keeping operations are being established. For example, during such periods, the Logistics Planning Subgroup of the Senior Planning and Monitoring Group would require logistical experts familiar with particular regions and planning, either on a contingency or an actual basis, for proposed new operations and the resources in the account for support of peace-keeping operations could be utilized to acquire such expertise for short periods.

5. The Secretary-General had requested the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the establishment only, with effect from 1 January 1990, of the separate account to be funded by credits transferred from the various peace-keeping budgets in amounts equal to the approved provisions for overload posts contained in each of the budgets, against which temporary posts representing approved overload posts would then be established. In connection with the establishment of the percentage rate for determining the amount to be included

in future budgets, the Secretary-General indicated that the rate should be based on the experience gained regarding the overall level of requirements needed for such support and that it was his intention to report to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee, at the forty-fifth or forty-sixth session.

6. The Advisory Committee, in its response to the Secretary-General (A/44/868, annex), indicated that the establishment of the account was, in principle, attractive and should more appropriately be named support account for peace-keeping operations. However, the Committee had a number of problems with the proposal as formulated. It had difficulty agreeing to the establishment of an account for which all the mechanics had not been developed and although it was clear that for 1990 the Secretary-General sought to transfer to the account only credits from existing peace-keeping operations in amounts equal to the overload post provisions for those operations, the Committee noted that the means of future financing had yet to be worked out.

7. The Advisory Committee requested, therefore, that the concept be developed more fully and resubmitted at a later stage, together with a clear description of existing problems related to overload posts and how the establishment of the support account would redress such problems, as well as a proposal for a mechanism by which the account could be scrutinized by the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly, as resources for the account would be derived partly from assessed contributions.

8. A follow-up report, contained in document A/CN.1/R.1121, was presented to the Advisory Committee at its 1990 spring session. On the basis of that report, the Committee, while expressing certain reservations, concurred with the interim establishment of a separate support account in 1990 for peace-keeping operations, pending approval by the General Assembly of the arrangements to begin in 1991. The concurrence of the Committee was given on the understanding that, initially, the account would finance the current 92 overload posts provided for in the separate peace- keeping budgets, including the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), a voluntary funded operation, and that the first financial period would be from 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1991.

9. The following paragraphs contain the additional information requested and include:

(a) A clear description of existing problems related to overload posts and how the establishment of such an account would redress such problems;

(b) The means of future financing of the account;

(c) The mechanism by which the account could be scrutinized by the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly.

10. The practice of providing overload posts under the budgets of peace-keeping operations is a long-standing one that goes back to the first peace-keeping operation established in 1956 involving the deployment of military contingents (UNEF-I). Overload posts were authorized at the time in order to alleviate the

additional work-load in the New York and Geneva offices caused by that operation. Future provisions of overload posts in the budgets of that and other peace-keeping operations that came into being later were established in consideration solely of the additional work-load caused by these operations. In the periods when the prospects for and the establishment of new peace-keeping operations were few and far between, there was no pressing need to consider widening the scope of the overload post arrangement so that it would cover any additional work-load requirements relating to peace-keeping in general, including good offices activities. The present situation differs from that which existed prior to mid-1988 in that the United Nations is now involved in a significantly larger number of peace-keeping operations than heretofore, with still others in prospect, as well as in good offices activities, that have taxed its entire capabilities.

11. Overload posts are derived from the financial resources of an existing operation and are tied solely to the needs related to that operation; moreover, they are not available before the enabling resolution of the Security Council establishes the operation. Therefore, it is with regard to such activities as those which generally precede the establishment of a peace-keeping operation as well as to good offices activities, that the present arrangement for temporary assistance through overload posts is found wanting. The proposed account for support of peace-keeping operations is designed to continue meeting the needs caused by existing peace-keeping operations as well as the additional work-load in connection with the pre-implementation phase of prospective operations and good offices activities that are clearly not within the confines of the biennium programme budget financing. This support account would provide the Organization with the necessary resources to allow it to respond effectively and in a timely and efficient way to initiatives that need to be undertaken as and when the occasions arise in relation to such good offices and peace-keeping activities. In addition, it would provide flexibility in the use of resources to respond to the administrative and political backstopping tasks of the various operations in accordance with their changing requirements.

12. The support account would also establish a single mechanism for the distribution of costs among the various peace-keeping operations. This would be a desirable development not only in respect of cash flow variances but also inasmuch as the financing of one of the existing peace-keeping operations, which currently provides a disproportionate share of overload post costs, is provided through voluntary contributions, whereas the other operations are financed through assessed contributions.

13. Bearing in mind the Advisory Committee's observations on the matter, the Secretary-General has given due consideration to all the possible means to bring about a fair and equitable methodology for the future financing of the support account. In this regard, he is guided by the need to maintain and to continue providing at adequate levels for the additional work-load requirements of the various offices outside the missions that are directly involved in work related to existing peace-keeping operations, as well as for such needs as may arise in connection with good offices activities. For this reason, the Secretary-General had proposed that the support account be financed initially from the combination of resources already included in the approved peace-keeping budgets, specifically for

overload posts. Beginning in 1991, the financing would be through the inclusion of a provision in each of the budgets of peace-keeping operations, in an amount equal to the average ratio in 1990 of the cost of overload posts to the cost of the civilian establishment in the mission areas, excluding UNTAG, and is estimated at approximately $7 million gross ($5.6 million net), at 1991 rates. At that level, it is believed that the support account would be in a position to continue providing adequate resources to meet the additional work-load caused by existing peace-keeping operations, as well as that which may be called for in respect of prospective peace-keeping operations and good offices activities. The proposed average ratio to be applied, beginning in 1991, in calculating the amounts to be included in each of the budgets of peace-keeping operations is 8.5 per cent of the cost (i.e. salaries, common staff costs and travel only) of the civilian component in the mission area of the respective peace-keeping operation. This ratio was considered appropriate since it was derived from the aggregate cost of the existing overload posts, excluding UNTAG, expressed as a percentage of the aggregate cost of the civilian components in the mission areas. Thus, the ratio is based on five peace-keeping operations - the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) and the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) - with varying responsibilities and mandates, as well as differing civilian components, as to the numbers and grades of the staff members. Three of the five peace-keeping operations have military forces and two are observer missions. Because of these dissimilar characteristics, it is the view of the Secretary-General that the average ratio has a sound basis and should be proposed as a first step. The ratio will be subject to review and, if necessary, adjustment will be proposed within the context of reporting on the support account for peace-keeping operations, should it be approved.

14. As the level of the account is to be a direct function of actual requirements, it is intended that this financing method should be reviewed at the end of the first two years, in the light of the actual experience gained in the operation of the support account and taking into consideration the amounts made available to it from the budget proposals submitted in respect of the peace-keeping operations for consideration by the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly. The results of this review would be reported to the Committee and the Assembly. Should this financing method be, at that point, extended and adjustments in the ratio become necessary, proposals for such adjustments would be made at that time. Adjustments could be either positive or negative and the reasons for this would be incorporated in the relevant reports.

15. Control and scrutiny by the Advisory Committee in the first instance and eventually by the General Assembly is exercised in the process of their consideration and decision with respect to the Secretary-General's proposals for the financing of the support account and subsequent annual scrutiny of the budget performance reports.

16. Proposals for the creation of posts to meet the additional work-load resulting from or caused by good offices and peace-keeping activities would be checked by the

Programme Planning and Budget Division against the following criteria, which are essentially the same criteria as govern the creation of posts relating to services provided by the United Nations:

(a) Work-load indication;

(b) Functional relationship of the proposed post to the work plan of the office or department;

(c) Possibilities for redeployment of existing staff resources to meet the functional need that has been identified;

(d) The appropriateness of funding the post from the support account for peace-keeping operations rather than from regular budget resources and of the type of contract to be offered to the incumbent in order to preserve a flexible management of staff resources;

(e) Proposed grading of posts vis-à-vis prevailing standards for post classification (all posts are to be formally submitted to the Office of Human Resources Management for classification before authorization);

(f) The effect that the creation of the post would have on the grading and organizational structures of the unit in which it is to be placed, bearing in mind the temporary nature of the post to be created;

(g) The duration of the post functions and the availability of the current and expected funding sources.

17. These criteria would be observed in the creation of all temporary posts chargeable to the support account. Whenever the proposal involved the creation of any new post, extreme care would be exercised in the application of all of these criteria, with special emphasis on (e) and (f) above. Moreover, the approval of the Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance would be required in each instance, subject to prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

18. Information on the posts charged to the support account would be contained in the relevant sections and subsections of the proposed programme budget covering the offices involved. For its review the Advisory Committee would also be provided with a report every two years on the support account as a whole that would include the amounts of the allotments allocated and expenditures incurred during the financial period and the Secretary-General's proposals for the succeeding financial period.

19. On the basis of the above additional information, the Secretary-General renews his request to the General Assembly for the establishment of the support account for peace-keeping operations.

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

The feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By General Assembly resolution 44/192 A of 21 December 1989, the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on measures taken in accordance with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions covering, inter alia, the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items.

2. In commenting on the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (A/44/605 and Add.1 and 2), the Advisory Committee expressed the view that several aspects of the proposal had not been addressed adequately and requested the Secretary-General to develop the ideas further for future consideration. The present paper will expand on those aspects of the proposal which have been highlighted by the Advisory Committee.

3. In document A/44/605, it was estimated that an amount of approximately $15 million would be required to acquire a reserve stock of commonly used equipment and supply items for new peace-keeping operations. This concept of reserve stock was based on a requirement to equip two regular infantry battalions (each consisting of up to 700 all ranks) and their attendant support elements, in a traditional peace-keeping force environment. While an indication was given in A/44/605 (para. 47) that the same reserve stock of items could also be used to establish a large military observer mission, this was felt, at the time, to be very much a secondary consideration. However, in recent years, the main demand has been for United Nations field missions consisting of military observers, United Nations civilian police elements, other civilian personnel (whether United Nations staff or

personnel provided by Governments) or combinations of all or any of the above. There have been fewer calls for the rapid deployment of multi-battalion infantry forces.

4. In the expectation that this change in emphasis may continue, the Secretary-General proposes in the present report some slight modifications in the composition of items making up the reserve stock, but without any increase in the overall total of $15 million or change in the general concept of how the reserve stock should be managed. The principal modifications are designed to cater for operations composed, for instance, of military observers, United Nations civilian police and other civilian personnel, along with United Nations advisory, administrative and technical staff, as distinct from formed units of troops. Operations with this or a similar mix of personnel would require essentially the same range of equipment and supply items. This will give rise to a greater need for light 4 x 4 vehicles and individual radios, as well as for pre-fabricated self-contained, tent-based accommodation camps complete with all facilities. Such operations will also need moveable vehicle and generator maintenance workshops, communications and other technical equipment workshops, workshop equipment, spare parts and maintenance supplies.

5. The principal justification for establishing a reserve stock of commonly used equipment and supply items is to enable rapid deployment and start-up of the various components of a newly-established operation in its mission area. It is recognized that because each operation is different, the extent to which such a reserve stock of items will prove to be adequate in terms of quantity, or appropriate in terms of fully matching requirements, will vary, but the key element is that a reserve stock should include sufficient commonly used items to permit the United Nations to act when directed, without first having to go out to procure even the most basic necessities. However, the reserve stock would not include items which are readily available off-the-shelf from suppliers.

6. As prices for the various items to be included in a reserve stock may be expected to rise over time, the sooner such a stock is established, the greater the quantity of items that can be included within the same overall cost. Using the proposed method of ensuring constant stock turnover and minimizing the impact of obsolescence on the more technologically advanced items, it will be possible for the Organization to maintain, on a continuing basis, a reserve stock of good quality items and thus a high state of readiness to meet the demands placed upon it. In addition, the existence of a reserve stock will minimize the initial start-up costs for a new operation. With items being readily available from the reserve stock, there will be time to select and utilize the most efficient and economical methods of transportation to a new mission area. It will also obviate the time pressures generated by the process of going out for bids on the whole range of urgently needed items. Such a bidding process sometimes results in the Organization having to sacrifice economy and quality in order to ensure immediate delivery. The Organization has recently had some limited experience of the utility of a stockpile, although it is somewhat different from the reserve stock envisaged in document A/44/605 and in the present report (because it consists of used items). Ex-United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) stocks are being utilized in much the same manner as is envisaged for a reserve stock, with items

being issued ex-stock to satisfy requisitions raised by existing missions. The proceeds from the transfer of such items are, however, being credited to the UNTAG Special Account rather than being used to purchase new, replacement stock items, as would be the case if a reserve stock were to be established.

7. The need to cater for new operations consisting of military observers, civilian police and/or other civilian personnel will require a slight modification in the composition of the commodities list contained in paragraph 51 of A/44/605. The revised reserve stock list making up the $15 million total would include the following types of commodities:

			Estimated cost (United States dollars)
(a)	United Nations uniform accoutrements, for 400 personnel, 100 fragmentation jackets, covers and blue helmets		35 000
(b)	United Nations flags of different sizes and different quantities, flag-poles, flag standards, decals, aircraft and vehicle signs		15 000
(c)	Motor vehicles of various types and trailers, comprising:		8 000 000
	Jeep, military pattern	25	
	4 x 4 station-wagon	200	
	Truck, light	10	
	Truck, medium	10	
	Truck, water	3	
	Truck, fuel	3	
	Truck, recovery	5	
	Truck, refrigeration	2	
	Truck, mobile	3	
	Ambulance, 4 x 4	4	
	Mini-bus	15	
	Bus, medium	5	
	Pick-up/double cabin	4	
	Fork-lift trucks	4	
	Trailers, water/fuel/cargo	40	

Cost includes freight estimated at 18 per cent.

(d)	Motor vehicle workshop tents (4)	($60 000)	330 000
	Workshop equipment, mechanic tools	($120 000)	
	Basic spare parts kits and tyres for vehicles listed above	($150 000)	

			Estimated cost (United States dollars)
(e)	Communications equipment, including:		4 588 000
	1 x transportable satellite earth station	$840 000	
	Satellite earth station test instruments	$140 000	
	HF radios - 5 base stations, 100 mobile radios	$2 378 000	
	VHF radios - 25 base stations 120 mobile, 50 portable, 8 repeater stations	$675 000	
	Radio test equipment	$228 000	
	Cryptofax, digital fax, test cipher units	$227 000	
	Inmarsat terminals (2)	$100 000	
(f)	Static and trailer mounted generators consisting of: 2 x 110 kva, 8 x 55 kva, 12 x 25 kva		312 000
(g)	Night observation equipment consisting of 5 units at $9,500 each		47 000
(h)	Reusable tent-based accommodation camps of various sizes and configurations to cater for 150 persons - fully equipped and complete with self-contained kitchen, dining, recreation, laundry, ablution, storage and sleeping accommodation. The camps would also have water storage/supply systems, water-heating and water treatment units, and self-contained sewage disposal systems		1,500 000
(i)	Composite rations for 150 persons for 7 days. Shelf life up to three years		10 000
(j)	Field defence stores (containerized) consisting of: fence posts, chain link fencing, barbed wire, concertina wire, gates, barriers, sand bags, gabions, flood lighting sets, searchlights.		25 000

		Estimated cost (United States dollars)
(k)	Quartermaster and general stores	5 000
(l)	Office equipment, identification kits, and initial stationery office supplies kit	5 000
(m)	Portable bulk storage and dispensing equipment for fuel and water, fixed and mobile	28 000
(n)	Portable medical emergency equipment and various sizes of first aid kits	5 000
(o)	Materials handling equipment including trolleys, roller units, industrial shelving	5 000
(p)	Large tent-based, poly-vinyl covered bulk storage/assembly warehouses (5 units)	40 000
(q)	Various multi-purpose, tent-based, modular structures which can be assembled in different sizes as required for use as offices, observation posts, operations centres, communications centres	50 000

Storage locations

8. In paragraph 49 of document A/44/605, it was stated that, while the United Nations Supply Depot at Pisa, Italy, is already available for the purpose, it may not be appropriate, or necessary to store all items of a reserve stock at any single facility. There is indoor and outside storage capacity at the United Nations Supply Depot, as well as at a near-by facility, which could accommodate most, if not all, of such a reserve stock. However, it is advantageous to consider spreading the reserve stock holdings of certain general commodity groupings between the Depot and the other existing United Nations peace-keeping operations in the area, i.e. United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). These other missions have storage capacity and staffing available to handle part of the operation.

9. Certain items are purchased in greater quantities for UNIFIL or used more extensively there than elsewhere. It would be logical, therefore, to retain the small reserve stock of such items at UNIFIL, especially if locally purchased. Thus the reserve could also act as a temporary buffer stock if need be. Examples of the types of commodity which could be stocked at UNIFIL, include: night observation equipment, composite rations; field defence stores; quartermaster and general stores; and fragmentation jackets and covers.

10. UNTSO, on the other hand, would be an appropriate location at which to hold a reserve stock of generators and ancillary equipment. UNTSO has generators at all of its locations and has the facilities and staff to handle them. UNFICYP could hold bulky items, including some containerized stock, communications shelters repeater stations, masts and antennas. For climatic reasons, the United Nations Supply Depot is suggested as the best location for motor vehicles and other items requiring outside storage. It has traditionally managed the supply of items which are required on a continuing basis and which are presently purchased centrally on the account of each of the existing peace-keeping operations, so it would be appropriate for the reserve stock of such items to continue to be held there. These include uniform accoutrements, blue helmets, United Nations flags, some motor vehicles and some communications equipment. All the existing mission locations mentioned have ready access to good airport and port facilities.

Storage facilities

11. Apart from the motor vehicles, which would be stored outside for the most part, virtually all of the remaining reserve stock items could be held either in sea containers or in warehouse space, stacked on the floor or on industrial shelving units. All the locations mentioned have such storage facilities, as well as fork-lift trucks and other handling equipment.

Maintenance and management

12. An important element in the successful operation of such a reserve stock is the continuous turnover of those items which may deteriorate if stored for an extended period or which may become obsolete. For example, motor vehicles and some communications equipment are two categories that should be turned over in a reserve stock on a regular basis. It should be possible to hold the remainder of the stock items for years, with little or no deterioration, provided they are new, remain in original packaging, and are handled and stored correctly. Storage of used items is much more complicated.

13. The stock would consist only of new units and would be standardized to the extent possible. It would be rotated on a strict first-in, first-out basis. All existing and new peace-keeping operations would be required to draw their current needs from the reserve stock and arrange for replacement items to be purchased, as new stock, from funds provided by the budget of the receiving mission, thus ensuring that the reserve stock always consisted of the most up-to-date items, in the best possible condition. In drawing up the budgets of existing missions on this basis, account would be taken of the need to purchase replacement items for the reserve stock which may cost more than the items they are replacing, either because of price increases in the interim or due to higher prices being quoted for the acquisition of new or updated models.

14. If the reserve stock comprises new, unused items, there would appear to be no need to increase the present staff establishment at any of the existing operations mentioned, in order to manage the stock. Initially, to establish the reserve stock, and whenever a new operation is to be mounted and stock items need to be prepared for transportation, it may be necessary to supplement the present small

staff at the United Nations Supply Depot at Pisa, which was recently reduced by one Professional, one Field Service and one local staff post as part of the retrenchment exercise, with personnel from other missions on a temporary duty basis. This would likewise be necessary if items were returned to the reserve stock in used condition, as they would need to be surveyed, tested, repaired as necessary, repacked, or otherwise prepared for storage in the stockpile.

15. The reserve stock would be managed from Headquarters, New York by the Field Operations Division. Computerized inventory records would be maintained and holdings would be verified by regular physical counts and condition status reports. Similarly, all instructions for the issue of stock items and replacement stock purchases would be handled by Field Operations Division. Thus, notwithstanding the physical location of the reserve stock, it would be centrally controlled and clearly and boldly marked as reserve stock, which could only be issued upon receipt of special authorization from Headquarters.

16. The Secretary-General would report to the Advisory Committee at specific intervals on the cost of the reserve stock being held.

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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Emergency assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	2
II.	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	5 - 6	2
III.	BACKGROUND	7 - 10	3
IV.	DAMAGE	11 - 15	4
V.	EMERGENCY RELIEF	16 - 44	5
	A. National response	16 - 22	5
	B. International response	23 - 24	6
	C. Reception and distribution of external relief	25 - 30	7
	D. Action of organizations of the United Nations system	31 - 44	8
VI.	REHABILITATION, MITIGATION AND RECONSTRUCTION	45 - 55	10

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In view of the gravity of the situation following the earthquake that struck the north-western part of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 21 June 1990, the Secretary-General decided on 22 June to appoint the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as his Special Representative for the Emergency in Northern Iran.

2. In its resolution 44/242 of 6 July 1990, the General Assembly recognized the importance of international co-operation for the mitigation of the devastation caused by the earthquake, and appealed to all Governments, the specialized agencies and organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to extend generous assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the affected area. It also welcomed the appointment of the Special Representative made by the Secretary-General and requested him to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

3. In its resolution 1990/64 of 26 July 1990, the Economic and Social Council expressed its gratitude to the States, international organizations and agencies that had provided relief assistance, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to intensify his endeavours to mobilize every possible assistance to help the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran in their efforts towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the stricken areas. It also requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session an assessment of the damage and the requirements for this rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected areas.

4. The present report is submitted accordingly.

II. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

5. The earthquake, which struck on 21 June 1990 at 00.31 hrs local time, caused widespread devastation, mainly in the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan in the north-western part of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The official estimation of losses as at 25 June was 50,000 dead, 60,000 injured and 500,000 homeless. All facilities for normal life, such as health centres, water provision, schools etc., were severely damaged and disrupted.

6. This report gives an overview of the national and the international response to the earthquake, including the efforts of the United Nations system. It also describes the requirements and actions planned for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the stricken area. The salient conclusions and remarks in the report can be summarized as follows:

(a) Much of the devastation occurred in mountainous terrain, presenting initially difficulties of access to the area and consequent uncertainties over the extent of losses;

(b) The scale and speed of intervention by national authorities were most impressive and commensurate to the magnitude of the disaster;

(c) Offers of assistance came on a massive scale from 46 countries. The need for relief goods, especially shelter and medical supplies and equipment, was obvious and such goods were promptly disseminated. The need for foreign rescue and medical teams was less evident. Some of these arrived unexpectedly, and others only after lengthy diplomatic negotiation. None the less they were welcomed and were able to demonstrate their equipment and techniques;

(d) The Iranian relief management officials were somewhat surprised by the wide range of international relief services available and the alacrity with which they were offered. Future preparedness planning should include a review of the nature and scale of external needs for probable future disaster scenarios;

(e) The appointment of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Emergency in Northern Iran was made to ensure the full co-ordination of system-wide action to support the extensive relief efforts needed for the affected population. It was also made on the understanding that the effectiveness of action depended, for a large part, on a unified approach that would avoid duplication of efforts and on close co-operation of all external assistance, including the donor communities, non-governmental organizations and Governments;

(f) As a result of the prompt response by the United Nations to the emergency, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed a wish that the United Nations engagement in rehabilitation and reconstruction should be continuously co-ordinated in the same manner as during the emergency phase and a hope that international assistance could be channelled through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(g) UNDP, as the focal point, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) and several United Nations agencies are at present committed in the different aspects of the international assistance in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase;

(h) The Iranian Government is preparing a master plan for the reconstruction of the devastated area. The report is expected to be ready in September and could serve as guidance to the international community in the continued assistance to the Islamic Republic of Iran following the earthquake.

III. BACKGROUND

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran, with an area of 1,648,000 square kilometres, has a population of approximately 54 million people and a per capita gross national product of about $US 1,690. A vast portion of its area is desert, and the average population density is only 31 inhabitants (1987) per square kilometre. However, in the area affected by the June 1990 earthquake, the average population density is at least twice as high because of the suitability of the area for agricultural production.

8. As a result of the Arabian plates movement (as much as 16 millimetres per year) towards Eurasia, the Islamic Republic of Iran is to a large extent affected by serious earthquakes and has during the past 45 years been struck by more than 30 major earthquakes, most of them occurring further South in the Zagros Mountains or in the Makran, towards Pakistan. In addition to this the Islamic Republic of Iran has also repeatedly been affected by other kinds of disasters such as floods.

9. On 21 June 1990, at 00.31 hrs local time, a major earthquake of Richter magnitude 7.3 struck the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan, in the Elburz mountains of north-western Iran bordering the south-western margin of the Caspian Sea. The worst devastation took place near the centre of the triangle between the cities of Rasht, Qazvin and Zanjan, especially in the three towns of Rudbar, Manjil, and Loushan, which are situated at an elevation of about 300 metres in the valley of the Shah and Sefik rivers and in several hundred neighbouring mountain villages (at up to 2,000 metres above sea level) where 60 to 90 per cent of the houses collapsed.

10. The official estimation of losses at 25 June was 50,000 dead, 60,000 injured and 500,000 homeless. A similar large earthquake (magnitude 7.3 Richter) occurred in this part of the country in 1962 with its epicentre in the Bu'in area (about 100 kilometre south-east of the 1990 event). That earthquake killed 12,200 people.

IV. DAMAGE

11. As is often the case after a major earthquake, early estimates corresponded to only a small proportion of the losses. Casualties were reported to be in the hundreds by mid-morning on 21 June, then 3,700 dead and 1,350 hospitalized by 14.00 hrs local time. By 20.00 hrs on 21 June, the official estimate of fatalities was 10,000 and early on 22 June this had reached 20,000. Later on the same day the probable death toll was declared to be 35,000 with over 105,000 presumed to be injured.

12. The main reason for the early uncertainties in the losses was because the widespread landslides and difficult conditions for the use of helicopters, which impeded access to a considerable part of the devastated area. As a result, and especially in the mountain villages, numerous undocumented burials had already taken place before the first relief teams arrived, while in the most devastated locations with few survivors an unknown number of corpses remained beneath the rubble.

13. The zone of major destruction of buildings and infrastructure included the three towns of Manjil (90 per cent collapsed), Rudbar (70 per cent) and Loushan (60 per cent). Most of the remaining structures in those towns were so heavily damaged that they could not continue to be used. Health centres, hospitals, schools and all other public buildings/services vital for the normal functions of a community were severely damaged or destroyed. Water, electricity and telephone systems were totally disrupted in the towns although the pylons and high voltage transmission lines across the devastated area appeared to be mostly intact.

14. Large-scale destruction had occurred as far as approximately half-way (30 km) down the valley from Rudbar to Rasht, but in Rasht (population about 300,000) less than 10 high rise buildings had collapsed and the lower buildings, mostly with light-weight roofs unlike Rudbar and Manjil, were unaffected. The water tower (60 metres high, capacity 700 m^3), providing water pressure for the city, had completely collapsed and the city was left without piped water for seven days until new pumps could be connected directly between the wells and the distribution network. Very little damage was observed eastward from Rasht along the coast.

15. In the three towns in the most heavily affected area, the houses and business premises were mostly of one or two (rarely three) stories, with bricks and mortar built into, but poorly anchored to, steel frames. Building collapse in the towns resulted primarily from the rupture of poorly welded connections in the steel frame and from the heavy weight of ceiling and especially roof masonry. In the surrounding mountain villages, where most of the affected population lived, construction was mainly of irregularly shaped lava blocks set in dried mud or of sun-dried mud bricks with similar cement. The roofs in those villages were of thick layers of dried mud spread upon reeds laid across closely spaced horizontal poles, a structure with a very low resistance to earthquake.

V. EMERGENCY RELIEF

A. National response

16. An Earthquake Relief Task Force was created at the President's Office in order to co-ordinate the national relief effort carried out by the different ministries and the High Council for Defence, including the Armed Forces and the Revolutionary Guards. Within each of the different ministries disaster co-ordination centres were set up such as the one at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs dealing with international aid.

17. The Ministry of Roads and Transportation immediately dispatched technicians, loaders, bulldozers, cranes and mechanical shovels to the area, and by 24 June all main roads through the area had been cleared of the rubble caused by extensive landslides. Some of the heavy equipment was being deployed to clear the rubble from collapsed buildings in the cities. The Ministry also dispatched vans equipped with wireless communication systems from nine provinces to Gilan and Zanjan provinces to restore communications with the affected area.

18. Owing to the fact that almost all of the health facilities in the affected area had collapsed or been heavily damaged, the seriously injured victims of the earthquake had to be transported to hospitals or health centres outside the area, in some cases several hundred kilometres from the earthquake zone. The Iranian Government also announced that 20 per cent of all beds in private hospitals must be set aside for earthquake victims.

19. In order to improve the transport capacity Iran Air established special flights to Rasht, and up to 23 June it transported more than 3,000 relief workers, earthquake victims and their family members. Airbridges were created directly to

the affected area, with helicopters carrying relief personnel into the area and the seriously injured out of it. Although relief helicopters started to work early, the adverse weather conditions and steep slopes greatly complicated airlifting and air-transport operations. That made it impossible to reach some of the villages situated in the high mountainous areas until 23 or 24 June. However, on 24 June a new helicopter landing field was established in Rudbar with extensive helicopter traffic consisting of airforce Chinook helicopters and smaller Bell helicopters arriving or leaving every few minutes. On 23 June the Air Force Command stated that up to midday on 22 June, that is, during the first 36 hours after the disaster, over 6,000 critically wounded victims together with 3,000 tons of goods had been transported.

20. The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (RCSIRI) played a major role both in providing relief personnel and material from national resources and in receiving and distributing the very large amounts of international aid that had arrived.

21. The public reacted promptly to the news of the disaster and throughout the country special committees were set up for voluntary relief to the earthquake victims. Both volunteer rescue teams and large quantities of clothes, food, etc. were collected and sent to the area.

22. It is clear that the national response to the disaster was carried out on a large scale and in an efficient manner. This included the rapid mobilization of personnel and equipment from a broad variety of national organizations such as the Armed Forces, the Revolutionary Guards, Red Crescent, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transportation etc.

B. International response

23. Following the earthquake the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 21 June indicated to UNDRO that it would welcome assistance from Governments and non-governmental organizations to the suffering people in the stricken area. On that date, UNDRO issued the first of 14 situation reports alerting the international community to the disaster situation and urging donor countries to extend generous emergency assistance.

24. The response of the international community was an example of international solidarity. As at 14 August 1990, the UNDRO mobilization effort had helped to secure contributions amounting to $US 95,327,210 (those reported to UNDRO) from United Nations agencies, Governments, intergovernmental organizations, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, non-governmental organizations, private firms and individuals. Not less than 46 Governments had contributed with emergency aid in cash and kind. Of those contributions more than $US 1,000,000 were entrusted to UNDRO in favour of the earthquake victims. (A complete list of all contributions registred with UNDRO is available upon request. It includes information on the donor, the value, description and quantity of the contribution and the implementing agency.)

C. Reception and distribution of external relief

25. Following indications from the Islamic Republic of Iran on the most outstanding needs in the emergency situation, UNDRO sent on 23 June a first flight with emergency goods from the UNDRO warehouse at Pisa, Italy. The first flight was later to be followed by two additional flights with relief goods from Pisa. In all, the cost of the operation was evaluated at $700,000 and made possible thanks to contributions from the Governments of Italy and Japan.

26. Joining the world effort for emergency assistance to the earthquake victims, the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund channelled a grant of $100,000 through UNDRO for purchase of medicines and medical supplies. The procurement of those items was made through United Nations International Packing and Assembly Center (UNIPAC) in Copenhagen and arrived in the country on 3 July.

27. At the peak of incoming relief flights as many as 45 cargo aircrafts from a variety of donor countries arrived within a single day.

28. At an early stage following the earthquake the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested that all incoming international relief should be channelled through RCSIRI. At the military part of Tehran airport, to which all incoming relief flights were directed, RCSIRI set up a reception centre and, from the UNDRO representative's observations at the airport, incoming flights were dealt with promptly, unloaded, refueled and cleared to return without delay.

29. After unloading, the goods were transferred to trucks and in some cases taken directly to the affected areas for distribution but more commonly to the RCSIRI warehouse facilities for sorting and registering. RCSIRI has large warehouses close to the airport. Their main centre, the so-called "mother relief base of the society", has a total indoor storage capacity of 45,000 square metres and is normally manned by a staff of 400 members, including maintenance workshops for some 500 vehicles. During the disaster this staff was reinforced by military and other personnel. Medical equipment and medicaments were taken to a separate medical procurement centre for sorting and distribution.

30. Reports from the affected area on the need of relief material and medicaments were received at RCSIRI headquarters at Tehran where a decision was made upon priorities and distribution. The final distribution in the affected area was carried out through RCSIRI.

D. Action of organizations of the United Nations system

1. United Nations Development Programme/Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

31. In Tehran the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative reacted immediately on the news of the earthquake, which was actually strongly felt in Tehran. Contact was taken with the Government to establish the extent of damage and to determine whether there was a need for outside assistance. All news was communicated to UNDRO and disseminated United Nations system-wide. Throughout the emergency phase close contacts were maintained between the UNDP office, governmental focal points for relief and UNDRO to ensure a response from the United Nations system and the international community relevant to the needs.

32. UNDRO mobilized rapidly to provide on-the-spot assistance in disaster relief co-ordination, including damage and needs assessment. On 21 June, UNDRO dispatched a team to assist with in-country disaster co-ordination, and two delegates left by the next available flight for Tehran on the following morning. At the teams arrival, contact was immediately made with the Co-ordination Centre at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other focal points for disaster relief such as RCSIRI in order to clarify the situation and outstanding relief needs.

33. On 22 June, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator decided to allocate a UNDRO grant of $30,000 for local purchase of the most urgently needed relief goods such as medicaments and shelter material. UNDP contributed an emergency grant of $50,000 for the same purpose.

34. Following the appointment as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the emergency situation, the Co-ordinator left on 25 June for a five-day mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran to meet with representatives of the Government and to assess the situation on the spot. During his stay he also chaired the inter-agency co-ordination meetings held between the United Nations entities present in the country.

35. In order to ensure close co-operation and information sharing between the different United Nations agencies represented in the Islamic Republic of Iran, an Inter-Agency Emergency Group was established. The group consisted of representatives of the UNDP office in Tehran, UNDRO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the United Nations Co-ordinator for Assistance Programmes in respect of Afghan refugees, and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. A first meeting was called on 23 June, and thereafter the group was reconvened every time new important information was available or when further action was called for concerning relief requirements. When the emergency phase was coming to an end the group was expected to continue its work to facilitate co-ordination of international assistance in the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase.

36. The UNDRO delegates undertook three missions from Tehran to the disaster area for field assessment of damage and needs. On the second day in the country (24 June), accompanied by senior officials of RCSIRI and League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, an all-day trip to Qazvin, Loushan, Manjil and Rudbar was made. In each of these locations the most senior surviving representatives of local authorities were met. The overall impression, given that only three days had elapsed since the disaster, was that the relief effort was massive, organized and effective.

37. The second UNDRO field mission took place on 27 June, by helicopter to the same area, but also included visits to Zanjan and to some of the high mountain villages where devastation had been severe and where search and rescue operations were still in progress under difficult conditions of steep slopes, high winds and low clouds.

38. A third, extended trip to the disaster area was undertaken by UNDRO and UNDP senior officials on 29 June in order to ascertain more closely the nature of the damage to buildings and progress in the establishment of the relief camps. This included visits not only to the severely devastated area but also further down the Sefid river to Rasht and eastward along the coast of the Caspian Sea.

39. At its headquarters in Geneva UNDRO maintained contact with relevant donor Governments, non-governmental organizations and a great number of private donors (also through the UNDRO office in New York), and was in constant touch with the relevant United Nations system agencies. The latter responded promptly and kept UNDRO informed of their activities.

2. United Nations Children's Fund

40. UNICEF responded to the emergency by airfreighting 30 tons of tents, blankets, water tanks, generators, pumps, tarpaulins, water purification pills and drugs on 25 June. Urgently needed supplies in the rescue phase and for the immediate care of the survivors, including approximately 150 tons of emergency kits, pesticides and vaccines, arrived soon thereafter. The UNICEF office in the Islamic Republic of Iran ensured that the supplies were directly loaded onto trucks and delivered to the disaster area within hours. Field visits to the affected provinces of Gilan and Zanjan by UNICEF staff confirmed that the supplies provided had been distributed and made effective use of UNICEF's total input in the emergency response phase amounted to approximately $1 million.

41. A UNICEF team was sent to the county to visit the affected areas in order to identify the immediate needs of mothers, children and vulnerable groups, primarily in the fields of health services and water provision, and to prepare an emergency appeal proposal to address them. The document, together with a seven and one-half minute documentary film, was issued by UNICEF on 24 July 1990 for fund-raising purposes. The financing required to carry out the urgently required activities identified by the UNICEF team amounted to $10,680,000.

3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

42. Although UNHCR is not mandated to be associated with relief programmes aimed at assisting people internally displaced or by other internal calamities such as the earthquake, UNHCR responded immediately to the appeal made to the international community by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for relief assistance. UNHCR contributions included blankets, tents and tarpaulins to be used in immediate relief efforts of the Government and RCSIRI to alleviate the suffering of thousands of homeless people in the affected provinces. The relief supplies originated from the orginal supplies UNHCR had received from the European Economic Community (EEC) to be used for Afghan repatriation programme.

4. World Food Programme

43. Bilateral donations from France, Italy and Switzerland were channelled through WFP. Following those donations WFP arranged three airlifts to Tehran where the food was transferred to RCSIRI by the local WFP representative. The total value of those contributions, including transport, reached $676,000.

5. World Health Organization

44. Following the earthquake, the WHO representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran was the first international official to reach the scene on 21 June 1990 to conduct an assessment of the needs, which resulted in the urgent request from the Government for WHO expertise to deal with the emergency. WHO provided relief assistance in the form of medical kits and technical expertise from headquarters and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in dealing with the relief phase of the emergency.

VI. REHABILITATION, MITIGATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

45. Immediately after the earthquake, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran set about preparing a master plan for the reconstruction of the devastated area. This plan is expected to be ready in September 1990. In the short term to the medium term, the major part of the plan addresses the problem of housing reconstruction because of the urgency in this sector (approximately 500,000 persons are homeless). The Government has estimated that roughly 90,000 new houses must be built and a further 30,000 need extensive repairs.

46. UNDP is responsible for co-ordinating international co-operation for rehabilitation and reconstruction. During the months of July and August 1990, UNDP requested UNDRO to organize and lead a multi-agency mission with the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the country to prepare those documents which were most urgently needed to define the United Nations system's inputs to the reconstruction process in housing, building and planning. This, naturally, covered but part of the total United Nations involvement in reconstruction for the many sectors of the economy.

47. In accordance with its mandate, UNDRO will focus on the disaster mitigation aspects of reconstruction. That is to say, attention will be given to the assessment of seismic hazards, the consequent risks to human lives and property, and the adoption of measures serving to reduce such risks.

48. According to the information available to UNDRO, among the other United Nations agencies contributing to the rehabilitation and reconstruction process are (a) UNICEF, which is assisting in the fields of primary health care and water provision in rural areas for mothers and children, with special attention to the disabled, orphans and displaced persons, (b) WHO, which is assisting the Government to prepare a new health sector plan as part of the overall reconstruction master plan being prepared by the Government, and (c) WHO, which is assisting in building up the country's disaster preparedness in the health sector.

49. The UNDRO-led multiagency mission identified the most pressing needs for reconstruction, taking into account the number of houses destroyed and homeless. In so doing, the mission prepared the following:

(a) Recommendations to the Resident Co-ordinator on assistance required for immediate reconstruction needs;

(b) A technical review of the impact of the earthquake, and recommendations for a multi-disciplinary approach to reconstruction;

(c) A draft project proposal entitled "Assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the implementation of a post-earthquake emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction programme".

50. The documents were prepared in close co-operation with all the Iranian institutions concerned, and with special reference to the Housing Foundation, which has built up much experience in reconstruction and which was, therefore, given overall responsibility for the reconstruction planning and implementation.

51. The first and most urgent document mentioned will provide the basis for an international appeal for the most urgently needed building materials. It also contains recommendations on the policies to be adopted for the reconstruction, technical suggestions for building earthquake-resistant housing.

52. The second document is largely technical and aims at providing all institutions concerned with a broad technical background in earthquake risk mitigation. It deals with seismic hazard in the region affected, earthquake damage and loss assessment, engineering and building construction methods, planning under seismic conditions, and the production of local building materials.

53. The third document to be prepared was a project document for UNDP, as the Resident Co-ordinator envisaged the possibility of rapidly obtaining funds for the reconstruction programme from the UNDP Special Programme Resources. The main aim of the project is to provide the Government with suitable technical support to deal with all the questions which may emerge during reconstruction. Cost-sharing contributions will be sought from donors with a view to increasing the volume of the technical assistance activities and equipment deliveries.

54. The UNDP office in Tehran finalized the draft project document and submitted it to its headquarters for approval at the end of August 1990. UNDRO expects to be appropriately associated with the project in order to ensure that earthquake mitigation elements are fully taken into account. Donors have been approached by the United Nations system for assistance to improve the quality and rate of production of building materials.

55. Finally, the United Nations system hopes to be able to assist the reconstruction effort at all stages of its implementation and at all levels within the country (national, regional and local). It has been greatly impressed by the dedication and efficiency of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and is convinced that the reconstruction programme will be completed within the two-year period foreseen, and with success.